

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A display panel manufacturing method, comprising an application process for applying a bonding agent to a plurality of barrier ribs formed on at least one of a pair of substrates, and a connection process for arranging the pair of substrates in opposition and connecting the pair of substrates together via the bonding agent that has been applied to the barrier ribs, wherein the application process includes:

a bonding agent ~~holding process for having a bond holding member hold~~ layer forming step for forming a layer of a paste-like bond to form a bonding agent having an even surface over a substrate having an even surface; and

~~a bonding agent applying process for applying the bonding agent to almost an entire top surface of each barrier rib by bringing virtually the entire top surface of each barrier rib into contact with the bonding agent layer, while regulating a degree of contact between~~ a connecting step for simultaneously bringing a top of each barrier rib down into contact with the bonding agent layer, while regulating a distance between the upper surface of the bonding agent layer and the barrier ribs.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A display panel manufacturing method, comprising an application process for applying a bonding agent to a plurality of barrier ribs formed on at least one of a pair of substrates, and a connection process for arranging the pair of substrates in opposition and connecting the pair of substrates together via the bonding agent that has been applied to the barrier ribs, wherein the application process includes:

a bonding agent layer forming step for forming a layer of a paste-like bonding agent having an even surface so as to embed a position regulating member that regulates positions of

the barrier ribs within the layer, the position regulating member being arranged on a substrate having an even surface; and

a connecting step for bringing a top of each barrier rib down into contact with the position regulating member to apply the bonding agent simultaneously to the tops of all of the barrier ribs while regulating a distance between the upper surface of the bonding agent layer and the barrier ribs process of Claim 1, wherein the bonding agent applying process includes:

~~a first step for arranging the substrate on which the barrier ribs are formed and the bonding agent in opposition, with a gap between the barrier rib tops and the bonding agent; and~~

~~a second step for regulating the degree of contact between the barrier rib tops and the bonding agent by controlling the distance between the barrier ribs and the bonding agent.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The A display panel manufacturing method, comprising an application process for applying a bonding agent to a plurality of barrier ribs formed on at least one of a pair of substrates, and a connection process for arranging the pair of substrates in opposition and connecting the pair of substrates together via the bonding agent that has been applied to the barrier ribs, wherein the application process includes:

a bonding agent layer forming step for forming a layer of a paste-like bonding agent having a curved surface so as to embed a position regulating member that regulates positions of the barrier ribs within the layer, the position regulating member being arranged on a substrate having a curved surface; and

a connecting step for bringing a part of each barrier rib top down into contact with the position regulating member and then to move the position regulating member along a length of the barrier ribs to apply the bonding agent to the tops of all of the barrier ribs while regulating a

distance between the upper surface of the bonding agent layer and the barrier ribs of Claim 1,
wherein the bonding agent applying process includes:

~~a third step for placing the substrate on which the barrier ribs are formed and the bonding agent in opposition, with a gap between the barrier rib tops and the bonding agent;~~

~~a fourth step for bringing one part of each barrier rib into contact with the bonding agent by controlling the distance between the barrier ribs and the bonding agent to a distance at which the bonding agent is applied to the barrier rib tops as a result of surface tension; and~~

~~a fifth step for bringing the surface of the bonding agent and virtually the entire surface of each barrier rib top into contact by altering the relative positions of the bonding agent and the barrier ribs while maintaining the distance between the barrier ribs and the bonding agent to a distance at which the bonding agent continues to be applied to the barrier ribs as a result of continuing surface tension.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The A display panel manufacturing method, comprising an application process for applying a bonding agent to a plurality of barrier ribs formed on at least one of a pair of substrates, and a connection process for arranging the pair of substrates in opposition and connecting the pair of substrates together via the bonding agent that has been applied to the barrier ribs, wherein the application process includes:

a bonding agent layer forming step for forming a layer of a paste-like bonding agent having an even surface over a substrate having an even surface: and

a connecting step for momentarily bringing one part of each barrier rib top into contact with the bonding agent layer, and then altering the relative positions of the barrier ribs and the bonding agent layer while maintaining a distance between the barrier ribs and the bonding agent

layer such that the bonding agent is applied to all the barrier rib tops as a result of surface tension of Claim 1, wherein the bonding agent applying process further comprises:

~~a sixth step for placing the substrate on which the barrier ribs are formed, and the bonding agent in opposition, with a gap between the barrier rib tops and the bonding agent; and~~

~~a seventh step for bringing the barrier ribs into contact with the bonding agent using a regulating means for regulating the position of the barrier rib tops in relation to the bonding agent.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The display panel manufacturing method of ~~Claim 4~~ Claim 1, wherein the relative positions of the bonding agent ~~applying process further includes:~~

~~an eighth step for altering the relative positions of the bonding agent and the barrier ribs~~
are altered with the barrier rib tops in contact with the ~~regulating means~~ bonding agent.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The display panel manufacturing method of ~~any one of Claims 1 to 5~~ Claim 1, wherein the bonding agent applying process is repeated a plurality of times ~~for the same substrate.~~

8-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The display panel manufacturing method of ~~Claim 4~~ Claim 2, wherein the regulating means is formed from interwoven wire rods.

13. (Currently Amended) The display panel manufacturing method of ~~Claim 4~~ Claim 2, wherein the regulating means is indentations and protrusions formed on a surface of a ~~bonding agent holding member~~ flat substrate.

14. (Currently Amended) The display panel manufacturing method of ~~Claim 4~~ Claim 2, wherein the position regulating ~~means~~ member is a plurality of half-cylinders, and the barrier rib tops are brought into contact with the curved surface of the half-cylinders.

15. (Currently Amended) The display panel manufacturing method of ~~any one of Claims 1 to 5, Claims 8, and 10, and Claims 12 to 14~~ Claim 1, further including a process for leveling the barrier ribs across almost the entire surface of the substrate so that all the barrier rib tops are at approximately the same height.

16-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently Amended) A display panel manufacturing method, for connecting a pair of substrates arranged in opposition via a bonding agent applied to a plurality of barrier ribs formed on at least one of the substrates, wherein a process for arranging the bonding agent on the barrier ribs includes:

an arranging process for bringing a an already formed bond sheet, ~~made by forming a sheet of bonding agent in advance~~, into contact with tops of the barrier ribs;

a transfer process for transferring the bonding agent to the parts of the barrier rib in contact with the bond sheet by pressing the bond sheet onto the barrier rib tops; and

a removing process for separating the bond sheet from the barrier ribs.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) The display panel manufacturing method of Claim ~~37~~ 36, wherein the transfer process heats the parts of the bond sheet in contact with the barrier rib tops.

39-42. (Cancelled)

43. (Currently Amended) The display panel manufacturing method of ~~any one of Claims 1, 20, 21, 24, 27, 36 and 39~~ Claim 1, wherein the bonding agent is arranged on the barrier ribs using a compound including a ~~first~~ substance which is more difficult to melt than the bonding agent.

44-59. (Cancelled)

60. (New) The display panel manufacturing method of Claim 2, wherein the relative positions of the bonding agent and the barrier ribs are altered with the barrier rib tops in contact with the bonding agent.

61. (New) The display panel manufacturing method of Claim 2, wherein the bonding agent applying process is repeated a plurality of times.

62. (New) The display panel manufacturing method of Claim 3, wherein the bonding agent applying process is repeated a plurality of times.

63. (New) The display panel manufacturing method of Claim 4, wherein the bonding agent applying process is repeated a plurality of times.

64. (New) The display panel manufacturing method of Claim 3, wherein the regulating means is formed from interwoven wire rods.

65. (New) The display panel manufacturing method of Claim 3, wherein the regulating means is indentations and protrusions formed on a surface of a flat substrate.

66. (New) The display panel manufacturing method of Claim 3, wherein the position regulating member is a plurality of half-cylinders, and the barrier rib tops are brought into contact with the curved surface of the half-cylinders.

67. (New) The display panel manufacturing method of Claim 2, further including a process for leveling the barrier ribs across almost the entire surface of the substrate so that all the barrier rib tops are at approximately the same height.

68. (New) The display panel manufacturing method of Claim 3, further including a process for leveling the barrier ribs across almost the entire surface of the substrate so that all the barrier rib tops are at approximately the same height.

69. (New) The display panel manufacturing method of Claim 4, further including a process for leveling the barrier ribs across almost the entire surface of the substrate so that all the barrier rib tops are at approximately the same height.

70. (New) The display panel manufacturing method of Claim 2, wherein the bonding agent is arranged on the barrier ribs using a compound including a substance which is more difficult to melt than the bonding agent.

71. (New) The display panel manufacturing method of Claim 3, wherein the bonding agent is arranged on the barrier ribs using a compound including a substance which is more difficult to melt than the bonding agent.

72. (New) The display panel manufacturing method of Claim 4, wherein the bonding agent is arranged on the barrier ribs using a compound including a substance which is more difficult to melt than the bonding agent.